

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-4 (previously canceled)

5. (currently amended) A method of manufacturing a cylindrical metal-oxide varistor with improved energy absorption capability, wherein electrodes are arranged making contact with end surfaces of the metal-oxide varistor, the end surfaces of the varistor are coated with metal, and an envelope surface is supplied with a high-resistance material so as to form a zone with enhanced resistivity close to the ~~envelope~~ envelope surface, the method comprising:

forming a metal-oxide powder into an unsintered cylindrical varistor body;

coating envelope surfaces of the unsintered varistor body with a paste or a dispersion of a high-resistance material comprising SiO₂ by spraying, dip-painting, rolling, or spray painting; and

sintering the coated varistor body, wherein during sintering the high-resistance material diffuses into the surface of the varistor body to a depth of 2-6 mm.

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein the envelope surface of the formed, non-sintered varistor body is coated with an aqueous dispersion of SiO₂, Li₂O₂ or Cr₂O₃.

8. (previously added) The method according to claim 5, wherein the coated varistor body is sintered at 1100-1300° C for 2-10 hours.

9. (canceled)

10. (canceled)

11. (previously added) The method according to claim 7, wherein the coated varistor body is sintered at 1100-1300° C for 2-10 hours.

12. (previously added) A method of manufacturing a cylindrical metal-oxide varistor with improved energy absorption capability, wherein electrodes are arranged making contact with end surfaces of the metal-oxide varistor, the end surfaces of the varistor are coated with metal, and an envelope surface is supplied with a high-resistance material so as to form a zone with enhanced resistivity close to the envelope surface, the method comprising:

forming a metal-oxide powder into an unsintered cylindrical varistor body;
coating envelope surfaces of the unsintered varistor body with an aqueous dispersion of a high-resistance material comprising SiO₂, LiO₂ or Cr₂O₃ by spraying, dip-painting, rolling, or spray painting; and

sintering the coated varistor body at 1100-1300°C for 2-10 hours, wherein during the sintering the high-resistance material diffuses into the surface zone of the envelope surface of the metal-oxide varistor to a depth of 2-6 mm.

13. (new) A cylindrical metal-oxide varistor with improved energy absorption capability, comprising:

a cylindrical varistor body comprising metal-oxide;
a high-resistance material comprising SiO_2 coating envelope surfaces of the varistor body and penetrating the surfaces of the varistor body to a depth of 2-6 mm.